

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Kernan Awards Grants to Train Workers at Three Elkhart County Companies

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Energizing three Elkhart County companies, today Gov. Joe Kernan awarded a \$135,764 grant to upgrade the advanced manufacturing skills of 40 workers.

Administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the federally funded Advance Indiana grant assists companies that have financially committed to coordinate training activities for mutual benefit. Through the Northern Indiana Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (WIB), Dexter Axle and two of its suppliers, Hayes Lemmerz International and Hibshman Distributing, will receive the grant. It will be matched by a \$169,815 contribution from the companies.

“Efforts like these are crucial as we seek to *Energize Indiana* and create the type of 21st Century economy we know we need.” said Kernan. “A huge part of realizing that dream is to train Indiana’s workers in the newest technologies and skills so they can remain competitive, and that’s what these grants are meant to do. This alliance will help a critical portion of our economy, advanced manufacturing, continue to prosper and we are pleased to be a part of it.

Beginning in January 2004, the 40 participants will receive year-long training in hydraulics, pneumatics, electro-mechanical controls, fabrication, logic controllers, motor controls, programming and industrial robots, robotic applications and servicing as well as automated process control through Vincennes University in Elkhart. Those who successfully complete the 18 hours of training will earn an Integrated Manufacturing Technology Certificate from Vincennes.

“Global competition requires local companies to continually improve the workforce and technical skills of workers. This grant will integrate technology related skills with existing automation activities for Dexter Axle and its suppliers,” said Juan Manigault, president and CEO of the Northern Indiana Workforce Investment Board. “This training will result in increased skills and wages for the participants.”

Located at 2900 Industrial Parkway East in Elkhart, Dexter Axle Co. is a premier supplier of running gear and components to the trailer industry. The company will send 21 workers for training. Haynes Lemmerz International, located at 51650 County Road #133 in Bristol, produces a variety of components for the automotive industry and has 16 workers participating. Hibschman Distributing Co., a small production machining and welding services company will send 3 employees.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state’s 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/ 232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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